



Sustainable Arlington

An Environment Committee of Envision Arlington

Minutes

Date: Thursday June 23, 2021

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting by Zoom

Minutes for June 23, 2021

1. Attendees: Brucie Moulton, Tom Ehbrecht, Sarah Hill, Emily Stoler, Scott Samenfeld, Gina Sonders, Amos Meeks, David White, Roger Rosen, Cecily Miller
2. No Update from the Planning Dept.
3. May 26 minutes. Were approved, as amended. read here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1z3ohICX8sTYvO7b8U0uXQOXXoTOTLEXM4AJtRheV1ow/edit>
4. Sustainable Arlington focus areas report backs. (Working groups are open to all. New members welcome.)
 - a. Arlington's Net Zero Action Plan – collaborate with the Net Zero Action Plan Implementation Working Group. [Press Release](#). [Net Zero Action Plan](#).
 - i. We submitted two ideas for ACE classes for the fall. They were accepted and plans are in the works to finalize the speakers. The classes are:
 - ii. Class 1: Arlington residents panel: going fossil free at home. Meet Arlington residents who have switched their heating and cooling and cooking systems away from fossil fuels. Combined with opting up to 100% renewable electricity, a modern, comfortable, electrified home can become carbon free and stop emitting greenhouse gases! In many cases, the efficient systems and insulation solutions improve home comfort, can save money and, most importantly, help slow climate change.
 - iii. Class #2: Learn about Arlington's Town wide effort to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and become net zero? Arlington is actively working to eliminate our greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors. A panel will discuss the key priority initiatives with

members of the Net Zero Action Plan Implementation Working Group and explore concepts including Net Zero, electrification, decarbonization, and more. Whether you rent or own your home, find out what you need to know and what you can do, from your own home to supporting state legislation.

- iv. Will seek to coordinate our ACE opt up campaign with what other groups are doing.
- v. Thanks to the current members: Tom Ehbrecht, Brucie Moulton, Roger Rosen, Sarah Hill, Scott Samenfeld. Emily Stoler expressed interest.

b. Local ecosystem(s) support in Arlington:

- i. Water quality. David White discussed the new reservoir construction project.
- ii. Soil health
- iii. Native plant and wildlife systems
- iv. Involved with Mystic Pollinator Pathways
- v. Exploring submitting classes to ACE for the winter term.

c. Environmental Justice

- i. How does environmental justice apply in Arlington, in nearby communities, and across Massachusetts? What does it mean to be an ally?
- ii. We are still forming this working group. Interest expressed by Tom Ehbrecht, Amos Meeks and Scott Samenfeld
- iii. Gina suggested we reach out to Arlington Fights Racism, Diversity and Inclusion. We can also look at supporting the MCAN campaign against the Peabody speaker plant.

5. New business

- a. Roger Rosen discussed the People's house campaign pushing for transparency in state government. This should aid climate friendly legislation that has public support. There are three requests for the rules for the next legislative session.
 - i. For legislation be increased from 36 to 72 hours
 - ii. Term limits for the speaker be re-introduced and
 - iii. Committee Votes be made public.

A meeting with Sean Garballey will be held June 24 to ask for his support for this. Roger asked for Sustainable Arlington to attend the call and to vote to endorse this campaign at a future meeting. An early July interim meeting was proposed.

- b. Cecily Miller discussed the public art project to develop markers with Tom Starr for Arlington to represent future climate events and resilience measures as a way to build awareness of the local impact of climate change. The project is in collaboration with Rachel Oliveri/Green Teams and the Planning Department. The Arlington innovation to Tom's pilot is that we are enlisting high school students as leaders and hiring 8 interns for the summer to partner with groups such as Sustainable Arlington to understand their activist work and research content. The request was

made for private donations and for Sustainable Arlington to vote on helping to fund an intern. Interns are invited to the July 21 and August 18 meetings. ArtsArlington.org/about-us/support/ put Sustainable Arlington - fund interns in the "company" field.

- c. Tom Ehbrecht asked the membership to consider asking Katherine Clarke to co sponsor Federal bill HR 2307 which is a carbon tax and dividend.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2307>

6. Announcements

- a. Sustainable Arlington website changes, thanks to Scott Samenfeld's hard work: <http://www.sustainablearlington.org/>
- b. **Open Space and Recreation Plan**: The planning process has started for an updated plan that will maintain the town's eligibility for state funding programs related to open spaces and recreation. The first engagement event was held on June 10. **Watch for a series of listening posts in open spaces and recreation areas throughout the summer to gather community input.**
- c. Could invite speaker on pro and cons of hydrogen as a fuel.

7. Adjourn

Resources:

[Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathways](#). Meets on zoom 2nd Tuesday of the month. Next meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 7:30-9 pm. Featured speaker: Rosemary Malfi, Ph.D., coordinator of the [Massachusetts Pollinator Network](#). For the zoom link, email: mysticcharles.pollinatorpaths@gmail.com.

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